



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR CALLS FOR MORE JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND BETTER TRADE BALANCE	1
MR. JACK CATER APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR	2
AM FREQUENCY CHANGE EFFECTIVE ON THURSDAY	2
TRADE STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN	3
237 BUILDING PROPOSALS RECEIVED	4
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT VISITS P.W.D. WORK SITES	5
CAMPING COURSE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS	6
TENDERS INVITED FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF CROWN LAND	6
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS	7
WATER CUTS	7

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 1 -

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR MORE JAPANESE INVESTMENT
AND BETTER TRADE BALANCE
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HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC MISSION TO JAPAN IS HOPING TO ATTRACT GREATER JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BOOST SALES OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS TO JAPAN.

THE AIMS OF THE MISSION WERE OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS, THE KIEDANREN, IN TOKYO TODAY (TUESDAY).

+WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND HONG KONG. IN 1973 OUR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WERE FIVE AND A HALF TIMES OUR EXPORTS TO YOU. LAST YEAR THEY WERE EIGHT TIMES AS GREAT. THIS YEAR IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE BALANCE WILL BE NINE TO ONE IN YOUR FAVOUR.+

SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT WHILE ABOUT A QUARTER OF OUR IMPORTS COMES FROM JAPAN IT IN TURN TOOK ONLY FOUR PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS.

HOWEVER SIR MURRAY ADDED: +WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT JAPAN HAS LONG BEEN A MAJOR SOURCE OF SEMI-MANUFACTURES, CONSUMER GOODS AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR HONG KONG AND THAT SO MANY JAPANESE LIVE AND WORK THERE.+

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS AN OPEN MARKET AND JAPANESE EXPORTERS HAVE COMPETED VERY SUCCESSFULLY WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS TO HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGE.

+BUT WHY HAS THERE BEEN SO LITTLE TRADE IN THE OTHER DIRECTION? HONG KONG'S EXPORTERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN FINDING MARKETS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WHY HAVE THEY SO FAR FAILED HERE? THE FACT IS THAT DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF NEARLY ALL YOUR FORMAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OUR EXPORTERS FIND THE JAPANESE MARKET VERY DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE.+

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT COUNTRIES WHERE JAPANESE INVESTMENT IS CONCENTRATED SHOW A MUCH BETTER IMPORT PERFORMANCE IN JAPAN THAN HONG KONG.

+IF IT IS THEREFORE A FACT THAT EXPORT PERFORMANCE TO THE JAPANESE MARKET IS LINKED TO THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN THE EXPORTING COUNTRY, THEN WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY JAPAN IN THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL SCENE.+

THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTED THAT INVESTMENT OR JOINT VENTURES IN HONG KONG COULD BE PROFITABLE TO JAPAN, WOULD ASSIST HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND TEND TO ACHIEVE A BETTER BALANCE IN TRADE. HE SAID THE MISSION WAS THEREFORE SEEKING THE CO-OPERATION OF JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

+IN CONSIDERING MY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE EXPANSION OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE, THE EXCELLENT STATE OF ANGLO-CHINESE RELATIONS OVER HONG KONG AND THE CONFIDENCE CREATED IN HONG KONG BY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CHINA, SHOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE JUDGEMENT OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN. I AM SURE THAT HONG KONG HAS NEVER BEEN A SOUNDER INVESTMENT.+

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 2 -

MR. JACK CATER APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. JACK CATER, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 23 DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

SIR MURRAY WHO LEFT YESTERDAY TO JOIN A HONG KONG ECONOMIC MISSION IN TOKYO, WILL RETURN ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 23).

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AM FREQUENCY CHANGE EFFECTIVE ON THURSDAY

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PEOPLE WHO RELY ON THEIR MEDIUM-WAVE BAND RADIO CLOCKS TO WAKE THEM UP ARE ADVISED TO USE OTHER MEANS TO BUZZ THEM AWAKE ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 23) MORNING WHEN ALL FIVE LOCAL AM RADIO CHANNELS WILL SWITCH TO THE NEW FREQUENCIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PRE-SET THE TUNING DIAL OF AN ORDINARY RADIO TO THE NEW FREQUENCIES.

+UNLESS YOU TUNE TO A VHF/FM BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP - USE AN ALARM CLOCK,+ HE SAID. +THE VHF SERVICES ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES.+

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ONCE THE RADIO STATIONS START BROADCASTING ON THE NEW MEDIUM-WAVE FREQUENCIES ON THURSDAY, PEOPLE CAN EASILY TUNE INTO ANY OF THE FIVE AM CHANNELS WHICH ARE IN THE SAME ORDER ON A RADIO'S TUNING DIAL AS AT PRESENT.

THE NEW FREQUENCIES OF THE FIVE AM CHANNELS ARE RTHK-3 (ENGLISH) 567 KHZ, COMMERCIAL RADIO-2 (CHINESE) 675 KHZ, RTHK-1 (CHINESE) 783 KHZ, COMMERCIAL RADIO-1 (CHINESE) 864 KHZ AND COMMERCIAL RADIO (ENGLISH) 1044 KHZ.

THE CHANGE IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF AM RECEPTION BY RE-ALLOCATING THE MEDIUM-WAVE FREQUENCIES OF ALL RADIO STATIONS IN ASIA AND EUROPE.

THE NEW FREQUENCY PLAN WAS WORKED OUT AT THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH ALL DELEGATES AGREED TO IMPLEMENT IT ON NOVEMBER 23.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 3 -

TRADE STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED QUARTERLY EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1978.

THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING EACH SIX-DIGIT COMMODITY ITEM OF THE PRESENT TRADE CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRY OF WHICH THE COMMODITY IS A PRINCIPAL PRODUCT.

THE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE FOUR INDUSTRY GROUPS HAVING THE HIGHEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE WEARING APPAREL, TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES, AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS. THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 75 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN BOTH THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS.

INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE HIGHEST IN BEVERAGES, FOOTWEAR, AND PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, BEING 46 PER CENT, 37 PER CENT AND 26 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1978.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED IN MINING AND QUARRYING (-36 PER CENT), TOBACCO (-34 PER CENT), AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY (-18 PER CENT), AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (-17 PER CENT).

ON IMPORTS, TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES, CHEMICAL AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, FOOD, METAL PRODUCTS, AND PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRIES TOGETHER TOOK UP AN IMPORTANT SHARE OF THE TOTAL IMPORTS VALUE — 59 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND 58 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE HIGHEST INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE FOUND IN MINING AND QUARRYING (39 PER CENT), PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING PRINTING AND PUBLISHING, (23 PER CENT), AND WEARING APPAREL (21 PER CENT).

MARKED DECREASES OCCURRED IN FORESTRY AND LOGGING (-14 PER CENT), AND TOBACCO (-13 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS RE-CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 4 -

237 BUILDING PROPOSALS RECEIVED

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 237 BUILDING PROPOSALS BETWEEN JULY AND THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE NUMBER WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN FOR THE PRECEDING THREE MONTHS.

DURING THE SAME THREE-MONTH PERIOD THE B.O.O. DEALT WITH NO FEWER THAN 3,294 PLANS, A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE 3,198 PLANS HANDLED DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER,+ HE SAID.

AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER THE B.O.O. WAS PROCESSING 1,144 PLANS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS DIVISION OF THE B.O.O. ANSWERED 47 EMERGENCY CALLS SINCE JULY THIS YEAR.

THE CALLS RELATED TO DAMAGE BY FIRE, DEFECTIVE CONCRETE, DEFECTIVE DRAINS AND DEFECTIVE ADVERTISING SIGNS.

CLOSURE ORDERS AFFECTING 75 BUILDINGS -- 43 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 16 IN KOWLOON AND 16 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- WERE OBTAINED.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD, B.O.O. STAFF ALSO INSPECTED 249 BUILDINGS WHICH HAD BEEN CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION SINCE THE END OF JULY 1975.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 5 -

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT VISITS PWD WORK SITES

THE ROBINSON ROAD-OLD PEAK ROAD-GLENEALY JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH FORM PART OF THE MID-LEVELS TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, ARE MORE THAN HALF COMPLETE.

THE IMPROVEMENTS CONSIST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLYOVER COMPLEXES AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ROBINSON ROAD WITH GLENEALY AND ROBINSON ROAD WITH OLD PEAK ROAD.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE WORK SITES INSPECTED TODAY BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD.

MR. STEAD WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

OTHER WORK SITES VISITED INCLUDED THE CANAL ROAD EXTENSION AND THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL BOTH OF WHICH HAVE MADE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS. HE ALSO SAW THE NEW CATTLE DRESSING LINE AT KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR WHICH WAS INSTALLED RECENTLY BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE.

THE NEW DRESSING LINE IS ABLE TO HANDLE UP TO 60 CARCASSES AN HOUR ON A CONTINUOUSLY MOVING OVERHEAD CONVEYOR BELT SYSTEM.

THE DAY'S TOUR ENDED WITH A VISIT TO THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT WESTERN DISTRICT.

THE PROJECT, INVOLVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 660-METRE ELEVATED ROAD AND THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF A SECTION OF HILL ROAD, IS MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

ON COMPLETION IN AUGUST 1980, THE \$25 MILLION FLYOVER WILL IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW BETWEEN POK FU LAM AND WESTERN DISTRICT. IT WILL ALSO HELP EASE THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT MID-LEVELS.

ACCOMPANYING MR. STEAD ON HIS TOUR TODAY WERE DR. Y.L. CHOI, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE- MR. A.W. OLIVIER, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE AND MR. K.Y. HO, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (H.K.) DIVISION, HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

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- 6 -

CAMPING COURSE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ORGANISED A THREE-DAY COURSE ON LIGHT WEIGHT CAMPING FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE COURSE, ORGANISED BY THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 27 TO 30 AT SAI KUNG.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSE WILL BE GIVEN LECTURES ON CAMP ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, MOUNTAIN SAFETY, MAP AND COMPASS READING, CAMP CRAFT AND CHOICE OF CAMPING EQUIPMENT.

+THE COURSE WILL REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS TO STAY OVERNIGHT AT DIFFERENT CAMPSITES IN ORDER TO GAIN ACTUAL FIELD EXPERIENCE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS INTERESTED IN THE COURSE SHOULD APPLY THROUGH THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION), PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SIXTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 6.

+AS THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE COURSE WILL BE LIMITED TO 35, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE IN POSSESSION OF FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF CROWN LAND

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IS INVITING TENDERS BY WAY OF RENT FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND AT HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 5,900 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR STORAGE PURPOSES, INCLUDING VEHICLES.

CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS AT NOON ON DECEMBER 8, 1978.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE SAID THE TENANCY WAS FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF 12 MONTHS, AND THEREAFTER MONTHLY.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, 19TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-26702899 (ENGLISH) OR 3-884111 EXTENSION 353 (CANTONESE).

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1978

- 7 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF TSUNG MAN STREET BETWEEN TUNG SING STREET AND THE ABERDEEN ZONE ELECTRIC SUB-STATION WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES IN THE ROAD, STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 23).

THE CLOSURE IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO ENABLE CABLE INSTALLATION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

MEANWHILE, THE SECTION OF COTTON TREE DRIVE BETWEEN THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM QUEENSWAY AND THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO KENNEDY ROAD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 24) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THESE AREAS TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUTS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CENTRAL AND TAI PO WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 23) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

IN CENTRAL, THE AREA BOUNDED BY JUBILEE STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, WING WO STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL INCLUDING WING KUT STREET, GILMAN STREET, GILMAN'S BAZAAR, WING ON STREET, TUNG MAN STREET AND HING LUNG STREET WILL HAVE NO WATER SUPPLY FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON THURSDAY.

THE AREA IN TAI PO, BOUNDED BY KWONG FUK ROAD AND TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND TAI PING RUGS AND CARPETS LTD. INCLUDING TAI PO OLD MARKET, SAN WAI TSAI AND CHUK HANG WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM THURSDAY MIDNIGHT.

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